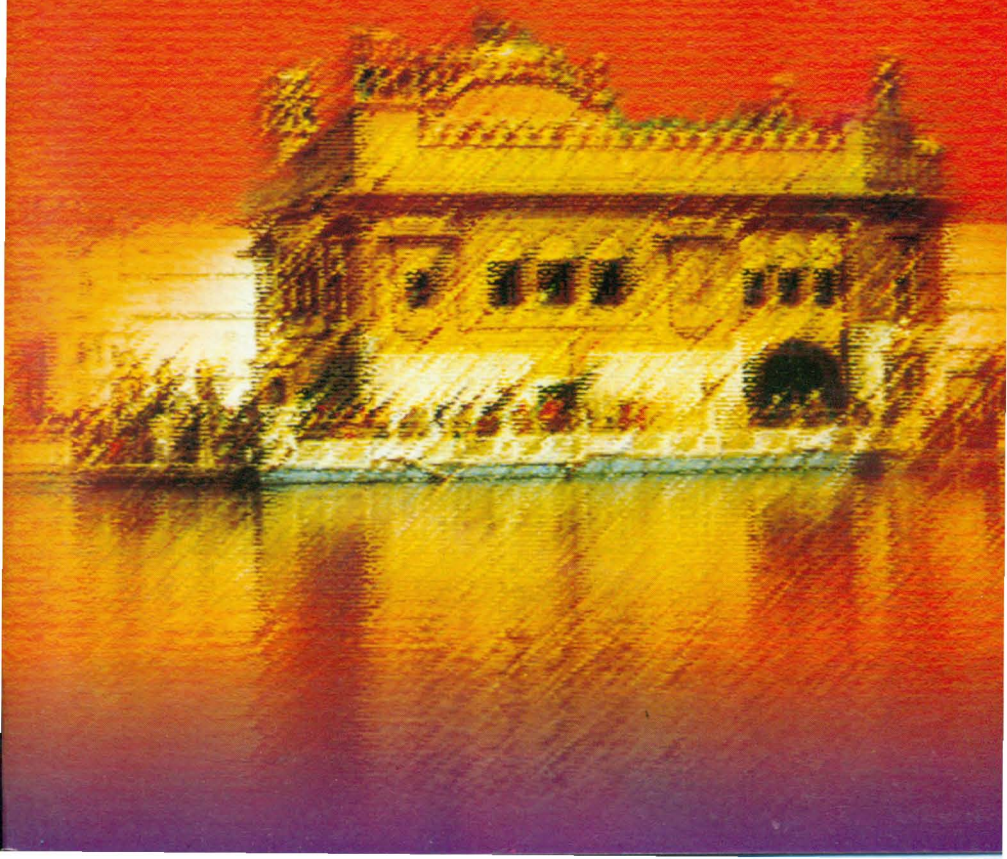




THE ESSENCE OF SIKHISM-6

THE LIVES AND TEACHINGS OF
THE SIKH GURUS





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THE SIKH GURUS



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E-28, Sector-8, Noida - 201301 (UP)

Phone: 0120-4078900 • Fax: 0120-4078999

Regd. Office: 576, Masjid Road, Jangpura, New Delhi-110 014

E-mail: info@madhubunbooks.com

Website: www.madhubunbooks.com

Also at: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna

First Published 1996

Reprinted in 2000-09

Reprint 2010

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Printed at Print Links, Delhi - 32

Preface

The pressures and challenges of modern life have made it necessary to integrate value education with school curriculum. In these troubled times when the society is witnessing an erosion of its cultural and ethical values, it is important that we instil the universal values of brotherhood, tolerance, peace and unity among growing children. The lives and teachings of the Sikh Gurus have for ages inspired mankind to live life with courage and conviction.

The Essence of Sikhism is a well-graded series and gives an account of the lives and teachings of the Sikh Gurus in simple language. Useful exercises help the students to recapitulate the historical setting of events. Interesting activities give them an opportunity to explore the deeper truth enshrined in the teachings of the ten Masters.

For over three decades, I have taught right from tiny tots to higher classes, where young boys and girls are at the threshold of adult life. This series is my humble offering before the eternal Guru, *Guru Granth Sahib*, from the experience of an entire life devoted to education.

Tejinder Kaur Anand

ਸੋਰਠਿ ਮਹਲਾ ੯ (Sorath Mahala 9)

ਜੋ ਨਰ ਦੁਖ ਮੈ ਦੁਖ ਨਹੀ ਮਾਨੈ .

That man who in the midst of grief, is untouched by it,

ਸੁਖ ਸਨੇਹ ਅਰੁ ਭੈ ਨਹੀ ਜਾਕੈ ਕੰਚਨ ਮਾਟੀ ਮਾਨੈ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

And is free from fear and sense of joy, and considers gold as dust.'

ਨਹ ਨਿੰਦਿਆ ਨਹ ਉਸਤਤ ਜਾ ਕੈ
ਲੋਭ ਮੋਹ ਅਭਿਮਾਨਾ ॥

Who is neither a back-biter nor a flatterer nor has greed, attachment and vanity,

ਹਰਖ ਸੋਗ ਤੇ ਰਹੈ ਨਿਆਰਉ ਨਾਹਿ
ਮਾਨ ਅਪਮਾਨਾ ॥੧॥

Who is unaffected by good or ill fortune, and is indifferent to praise and blame,

ਆਸਾ ਮਨਸਾ ਸਗਲ ਤਿਆਗੈ ਜਗ ਤੇ ਰਹੈ ਨਿਰਾਸਾ ॥

Who discards desire and longing, accepting his lot in disinterested manner,

ਕਾਮ ਕ੍ਰੋਧ ਜਿਹ ਪਰਸੈ ਨਾਹਿਨ ਤਿਹ
ਘਟਿ ਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਨਿਵਾਸਾ ॥੨॥

*Who is undisturbed by lust or wrath;
in such a man God dwells.*

ਗੁਰਿ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਜਿਹ ਨਰ ਕਉ ਕੀਨੀ
ਤਿਹ ਇਹ ਜੁਗਤਿ ਪਛਾਨੀ ॥

*The person on whom the Guru bestows His grace
understands the way of right living.*

ਨਾਨਕ ਲੀਨ ਭਇਓ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿਉ ਜਿਉ
ਪਾਨੀ ਸੰਗ ਪਾਨੀ ॥੩॥੧੧॥

*His soul, O Nanak, is merged in the Lord as water
is mingled with water.*

Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib

- *Learn and recite the above verses.*

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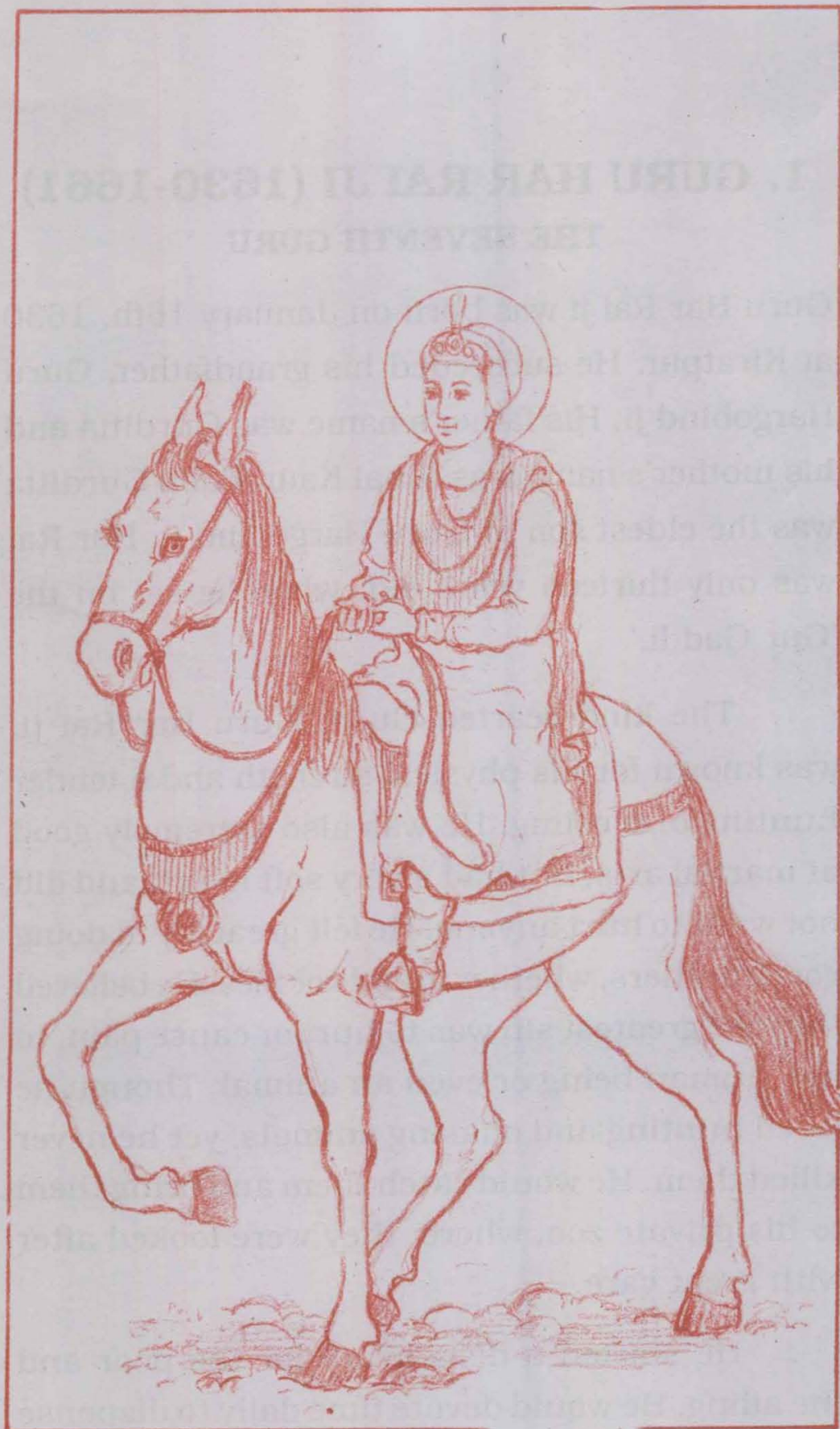
1. GURU HAR RAI JI (1630-1661)

THE SEVENTH GURU

Guru Har Rai ji was born on January 16th, 1630 at Kiratpur. He succeeded his grandfather, Guru Hargobind ji. His father's name was Gurditta and his mother's name was Nihal Kaur. Baba Gurditta was the eldest son of Guru Hargobind ji. Har Rai was only thirteen years old, when he sat on the 'Gur Gaddi.'

The kind-hearted Guru, Guru Har Rai ji, was known for his physical strength and a tender hunting and riding. He was also extremely good at martial arts, but had a very soft heart, and did not want to hurt anyone. He felt great joy in doing good to others, whether friends or foes. He believed that the greatest sin was to hurt or cause pain, to any human being or even an animal. Though he loved hunting and chasing animals, yet he never killed them. He would catch them and bring them to his private zoo, where they were looked after with great care.

He started a dispensary for the poor and the ailing. He would devote time daily to dispense



medicines to the sick. Actually his dispensary's store house contained some of the most rare and expensive medicines. He would personally see to it that all the injured or sick patients were attended with tenderness and care.

The practice of free kitchen had started from Guru Nanak Dev ji's time, and had continued since. But Guru Har Rai ji gave special instructions, that food should be served to every hungry person, at anytime of the day or night, and that it should be served with humility and kindness. He told his Sikhs that they should give food to anyone hungry who knocked at their door, and serve it in the same manner as they would serve their own relatives or friends. He preached that the heart needed more care than a mosque or a temple, as the latter could be rebuilt, while the heart could never be repaired. He told his Sikhs that they should share their prosperity with others who were less privileged.

Thus Guru Har Rai ji was the fountain of love, tenderness, care and kindness. He protected and looked after the weak, the hungry and the sick.

How Much Do You Remember?

I. Answer the following questions:

1. How old was Guru Har Rai ji when he sat on the 'Gur Gaddi'?

2. What was the name of Guru Sahib's father?
3. Who was Guru Sahib's grandfather?
4. Why was Guru Sahib known as a kind-hearted Guru?
5. What did he do for the sick and the poor?

II. Fill in the blanks:

1. Guru Har Rai Sahib was born on _____.
2. He was known for his _____ strength and a _____ heart.
3. Guru Har Rai Sahib gave special instructions that food should be served with _____ and _____.
4. He preached that the heart needed more _____ than a _____ or a _____.
5. Guru Har Rai Sahib was the fountain of _____, _____ and kindness.

II. Something to do:

Collect more information about Guru Har Rai Ji's private zoo and write a small paragraph on it.

2. THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Shahjahan was the Mughal Emperor during the period of Guru Har Rai ji. He was very fond of his eldest son, Dara Shikoh. Once Dara Shikoh fell very seriously ill. The best Hakims were called, but there was no improvement. One of the Hakims prescribed some very rare medicines, which were not available anywhere. Someone suggested to the Emperor that Guru Har Rai ji be approached, as he had some very rare medicines in his store. The Emperor was reluctant to do so, because he was aware that he had sent his army to fight against the Sikhs, and also his father, Jehangir's, men had tortured Guru Arjan Dev ji to death. But his prime minister told him that Guru Sahib never refused help to anyone, even his enemies.

The Emperor sent a letter through a messenger, and Guru Sahib immediately sent the required medicines. Dara Shikoh recovered, and Shahjahan forgot all the ill will towards the Sikhs and their Guru, and extended the hand of friendship.

But this friendship did not last very long. Soon Shahjahan fell sick, and was imprisoned by



his son, Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb fought with his brothers and defeated them. He declared himself the Emperor of the Mughal empire. He issued special instructions that no one should help Dara Shikoh, who had fled to Punjab. Finding himself helpless and unwanted, Dara Shikoh decided to seek the help of Guru Sahib. Guru Har Rai ji received him kindly and told him to proceed towards Lahore. Guru Sahib sent his army to river Beas, at the request of Dara Shikoh, to escort him, and to prevent the Mughal army from following him. When Aurangzeb's men saw the Sikh army, they turned back without fighting.

Aurangzeb was a cruel and, hard hearted king. He had imprisoned his own father, while he was sick. He fought with his brothers, and they were either killed or had to leave the country. He had demolished many Hindu temples and built mosques in their places. He believed that Islam was the only true religion, and wanted to force all the non-Muslims to accept Islam as their religion.

Aurangzeb's men complained to him about the help given to Dara Shikoh by the Sikh Guru, against his wishes and orders. They advised him to invite Guru Har Rai ji to Delhi and convert him and his followers to Islam. When Guru Sahib received the invitation, he decided not to go as he was aware

of the earlier treatment of the Sikh Gurus by the Mughals. Guru Sahib decided to send his elder son Sri Ram Rai. He told his son to be bold, yet remain calm. Guru Sahib also advised Ram Rai to interpret Guru Granth Sahib correctly, if he was asked to do so, at Delhi.

Sri Ram Rai was asked many questions in the court of Aurangzeb, to which he replied boldly. But when he was asked to explain certain verses concerning Muslims, in Guru Granth Sahib, Sri Ram Rai tried to avoid annoying the Emperor, and interpreted the verses wrongly. When Guru Har Rai ji heard about it, he was very upset, and felt hurt that his own son did not have the courage to tell the truth. He decided to give the 'Gur Gaddi' to his younger son Harkrishan, who was only five years old then. He told his Sikhs to treat him as his image. After that he died peacefully.

Guru Har Rai Sahib guided the Sikhs spiritually for seventeen years. He never wanted to get involved in the political struggle of the Mughals, but could not refuse help to Dara Shikoh when he begged for it.

How Much Do You Remember?

I. Answer the following questions :

1. Who was the Mughal Emperor at the time of Guru Har Rai Sahib?

2. Why was Emperor Shahjahan reluctant to approach Guru Sahib for medicine ?
3. Why did Guru Sahib help Dara Shikoh ?
4. Why didn't the friendship of Guru Sahib and Shahjahan last for very long ?
5. What was the religious policy of Aurangzeb ?
6. Why did Guru Har Rai Sahib refuse the invitation of Aurangzeb to visit Delhi ?
7. Guru Har Rai Sahib did not give 'Gur Gaddi' to his elder son Sri Ram Rai. Why ?
8. To whom was the 'Gur Gaddi' given ?

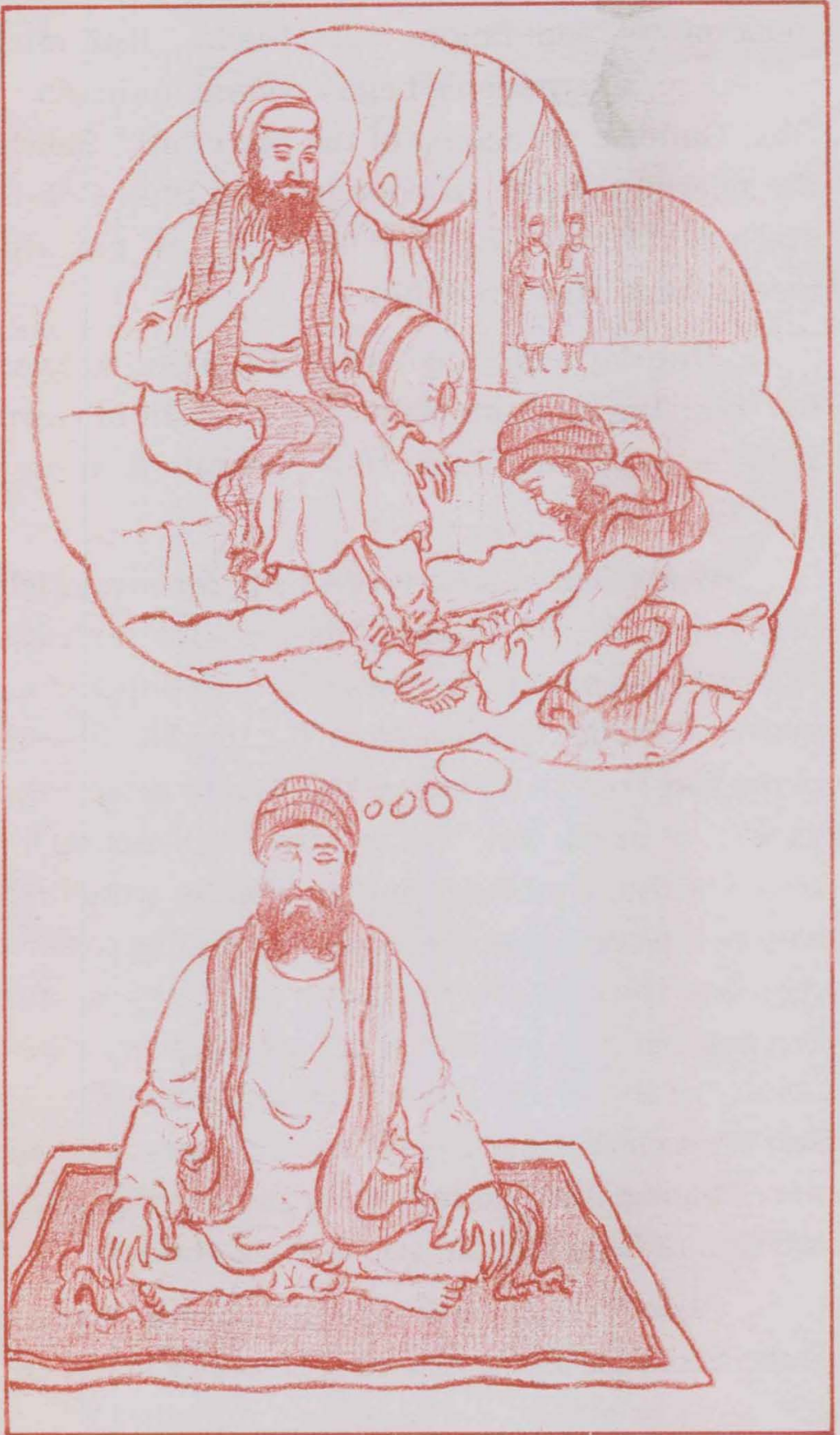
II. Fill in the blanks :

1. Once _____
fell very seriously ill.
2. Shahajahan's prime minister told him that Guru Sahib never _____ to anyone.
3. Aurangzeb _____ his father Shahjahan.
4. Aurangzeb fought with his _____ and defeated them.
5. Aurangzeb believed that Islam was the only _____.

3. CONTRIBUTION OF GURU HAR RAI JI

Guru Har Rai ji was a man of vision , and felt that Guru Nanak Dev ji's message must reach the areas even beyond the Indian continent. One of his Sikhs, named Bhai Gonda, was very devoted to Guru Sahib and was a deeply religious man. Bhai Gonda would meditate on the name of the God for long hours in the morning, and for the rest of the day he would chant His name in his mind while performing his daily duties. He served Guru Sahib with humility and dedication. Guru Sahib decided to send him to Kabul, to spread the message of Guru Nanak Dev ji. He directed him to proceed to Kabul and preach the Sikh faith amongst the people, and make them learn and sing the hymns of Guru Granth Sahib. He told Bhai Gonda that he would receive a lot of offerings, with which he should run a free kitchen for everyone. If the offerings were more than he needed , he should send them for the free kitchen of Guru Sahib.

Bhai Gonda proceeded to Kabul, built a small Gurdwara and did what he was told to do. It was not



an easy task, as Kabul was a foreign territory, and most of its population was Muslim. But after sometime, a few people began coming to listen to Bhai Gonda's preaching of the Sikh faith. Slowly the offerings began to pour in, and Bhai Gonda started running the free kitchen, as per the instructions of Guru Sahib.

One day while meditating, Bhai Gonda fixed his thoughts on Guru Sahib. He thought of Guru Sahib's feet in his mind, and went into a trance holding them.

Guru Sahib, who was sitting far away, felt that someone was holding his feet. Through his supernatural powers, he knew what was happening. Guru Sahib did not move from 'Gur Gaddi', in spite of the fact that his Sikhs asked him to attend the 'langar' at lunch time. Guru Sahib kept sitting for hours without moving, and the Sikhs wondered why he was not getting up and responding to their requests to have lunch. It was ultimately in the evening, that Guru Sahib got up from the 'Gur Gaddi,' and told his followers that Bhai Gonda in Kabul was holding his feet in his thoughts and was not releasing him. He prayed for the success of the mission of Bhai Gonda, and had his dinner.

Guru Har Rai ji remained the spiritual leader of the Sikhs for fourteen years. He was a source of

strength as well as inspiration for the Sikhs. He instructed them to do good, not to hurt anyone and serve their fellow beings with humility and love.

How Much Do You Remember?

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Where did Guru Har Rai ji send Bhai Gonda?
2. What did Guru Sahib tell Bhai Gonda to do at Kabul?
3. How successful was Bhai Gonda in his mission at Kabul?
4. What happened one day while Bhai Gonda was meditating?
5. Why didn't Guru Sahib get up from 'Gur Gaddi' till evening, inspite of repeated requests from his disciples?

II. Fill in the blanks:

1. Guru Har Rai Sahib was a man of _____
2. Guru Sahib felt that the message of Guru Nanak Dev ji must reach areas beyond _____.
3. Bhai Gonda served Guru Sahib with _____ and _____
4. Guru Sahib kept sitting for _____ without moving.
5. Guru Har Rai Sahib remained the spiritual leader of the Sikhs for _____ years.

III. Something to do:

Bhai Gonda built a Gurdwara in Kabul. Try and find out pictures of this Gurdwara and some more information about it. Take help from your teacher or the library.

4. GURU HARKRISHAN JI (1656-1664)

THE EIGHTH GURU

Guru Harkrishan ji was the youngest son of Guru Har Rai ji and Kishan Kaur. He was born on July 7th, 1656 at Kiratpur. He was chosen to be the next Guru when he was five. His elder brother Sri Ram Rai was not given the 'Gur Gaddi', because he had not interpreted some of the verses in Guru Granth Sahib correctly in Aurangzeb's court.

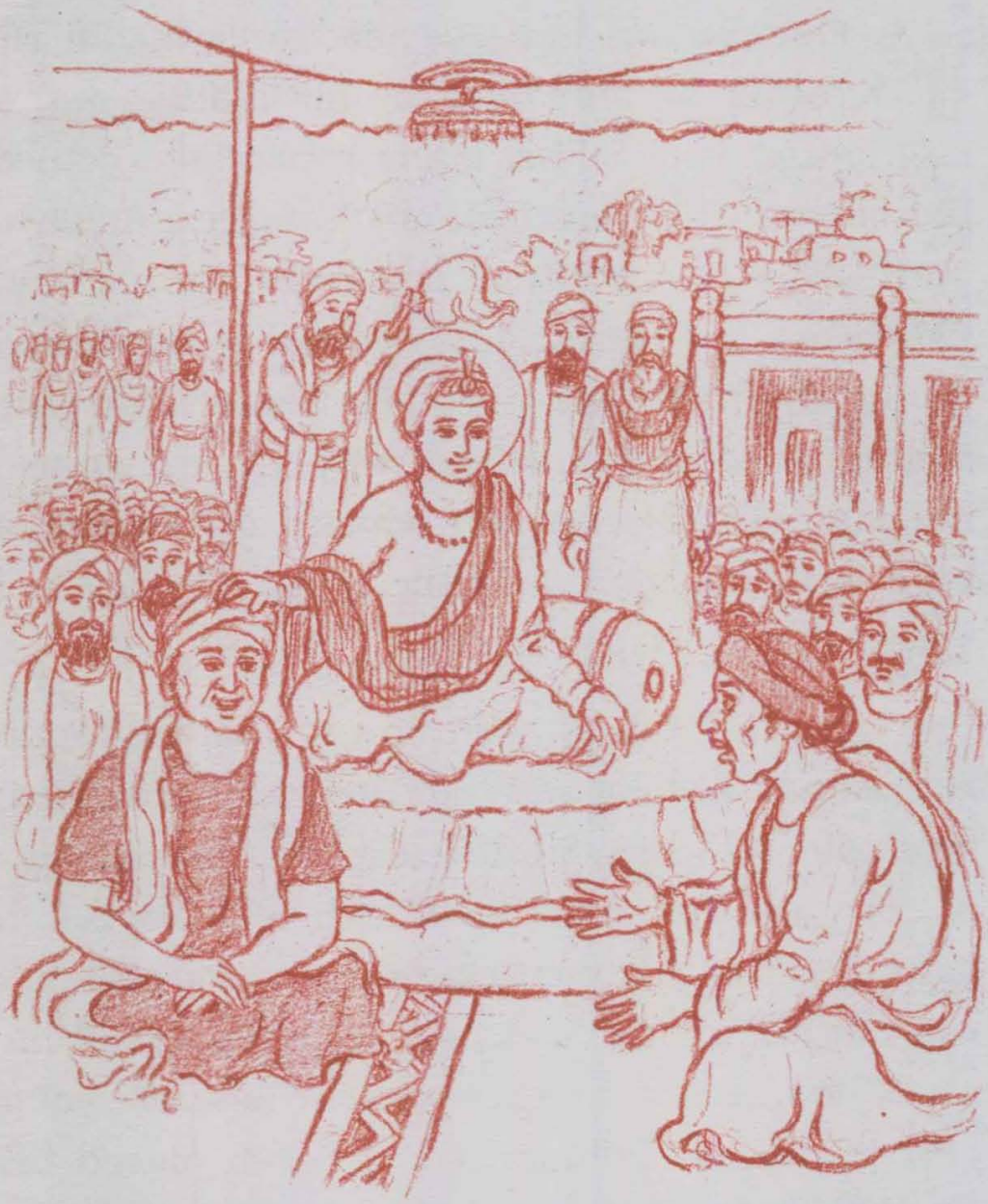
When Sri Ram Rai heard about the decision of his father to appoint Harkrishan as the next Guru, he put in a complaint in the court of Aurangzeb about it. Aurangzeb decided to invite Guru Harkrishan ji to Delhi, and told Raja Jai Singh to do so, on his behalf. Raja Jai Singh despatched a messenger inviting Guru Sahib to Delhi.

Guru Harkrishan ji replied that he did not want to meet Aurangzeb, as per the instructions of his father. Raja Jai Singh again requested Guru Sahib to come to Delhi and be his guest of honour. He wrote to Guru Sahib, that he would not insist on his meeting Emperor Aurangzeb, but would like him to visit Delhi for his sake, and for the sake of the Sikhs of Delhi who were very keen to meet him.

Guru Harkrishan ji decided to visit Delhi. He left Kiratpur accompanied by his mother and a large number of Sikhs. Many more Sikhs joined him on the way. He reached Panjokhra, near Ambala, and decided to camp there. During his short stay at Panjokhra, one of his Sikhs reported to him that a proud Brahmin talked rudely about him. The Brahmin had questioned as to why he had assumed the name of Sri Harkrishan, which was the name of Lord Krishna, who gave the great message of spirituality in 'Bhagwad Gita.'

Guru Sahib advised him to call the proud Brahmin for a dialogue. When the Brahmin arrived, he challenged Guru Sahib to explain the teachings of 'Bhagwad Gita' and the 'Shastras'. Guru Sahib smiled and asked him to catch hold of any ordinary man on the street, and he would answer all his questions. The Brahmin brought an illiterate water carrier named, Chhajju. Guru Sahib placed his hand on the head of Chhajju and told him to answer all the questions of the Brahmin on 'Gita' and 'Shastras'. Chhajju answered all the questions of the Brahmin without any difficulty, due to the grace of Guru Sahib. The Brahmin felt ashamed and humbled. He fell on the feet on Guru Sahib and begged for forgiveness.

Soon after this incident, Guru Sahib drew a



line, and told all the Sikhs not to proceed further. A beautiful Gurdwara has been built in the memory of the visit of Guru Harkrishan ji at Panjokhra. He assumed his journey from there with his mother and a few chosen Sikhs.

On Guru Sahib's arrival at Delhi, Raja Jai Singh came forward bare-feet, to receive him very

respectfully, and escorted him to his palace (at present, Gurdwara Bangla Sahib stands at its place).

How Much Do You Remember?

I. Answer the following questions :

1. Why did Guru Har Rai ji choose his younger son for the 'Gur Gaddi' instead of his older son ?
2. How did Sri Ram Rai react to the decision of his father to give the 'Gur Gaddi' to his younger brother ?
3. Who invited Guru Harkrishan ji to Delhi ?
4. What was reported to Guru Sahib at Panjokhra by one of his Sikhs ?
5. What did the Brahmin ask Guru Harkrishan Sahib to do ?
6. What did Guru Sahib suggest ?
7. Whom did the Brahmin bring, and what happened after that ?

II. Fill in the blanks :

1. Aurangzeb asked Raja Jai Singh to invite _____ to Delhi on his behalf.
2. Guru Sahib replied that he did not want to meet _____ as per the instructions of his father.
3. The Brahmin brought an illiterate _____ named _____.
4. At _____ Guru Sahib drew a line and told the Sikhs not to proceed further.
5. On Guru Sahib's arrival at Delhi _____ came forward to receive him.

5. THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Emperor Aurangzeb was very keen to meet Guru Harkrishan ji, but Raja Jai Singh persuaded him not to insist, as Guru Sahib did not want to see him. Aurangzeb sent his son to meet Guru Sahib and to find out his views regarding the claim of his elder brother for 'Gur Gaddi.'

Guru Harkrishan Sahib explained to the prince, that Guruship was not a 'jagir' which could be claimed as a matter of right. The departing Guru had the right to decide who would be the next Guru, and his decision was final. Guru Harkrishan ji further pointed out, that the first three Gurus decided not to appoint their sons as Gurus after them. Guru Ram Das ji chose his younger son, and Guru Hargobind ji selected his grandson instead of his own sons, for the 'Gur Gaddi.' Thus his own father chose him, and not his elder brother, to succeed him. He told the prince that no one had the right to question his decision.

Aurangzeb was very impressed with the reply given to the prince by Guru Sahib. He dismissed



the claim of Sri Ram Rai for 'Gur Gaddi.' Aurangzeb was quite surprised to receive such a wise reply from the child Guru. The prince had also reported to his father that though so young, Guru Sahib possessed a very impressive personality. The people had also informed Aurangzeb that the child Guru possessed supernatural powers.

One day Aurangzeb called Raja Jai Singh, and told him that everyone was talking very highly of the child Guru and asked him to test him. Raja

Jai Singh went home and told his queen about his visit to the Emperor's court. Both of them decided on a plan to test the powers of Guru Sahib. The queen was to dress up like her maid servants, and Guru Sahib was to be asked to recognize the queen amongst the maid servants. Guru Sahib guessed what was in the mind of the Raja. He did not want to display his powers, but decided to agree to Raja's request and pointed at the queen straight away. Raja Jai Singh informed Aurangzeb about the outcome of the test.

Many Sikhs from far off places came to seek the blessings of Guru Harkrishan ji. Guru Sahib told them to remember the name of God and to live a life of truth, humility and love their fellow human beings.

How Much Do You Remember?

I. Answer the following questions :

1. Who persuaded Emperor Aurangzeb not to insist on meeting Guru Harkrishan ji ?
2. What explanation did Guru Sahib give to Aurangzeb's son, regarding the claim of Sri Ram Rai for the 'Gur Gaddi' ?
3. What did Aurangzeb's son report to him ?
4. Who wanted to test Guru Harkrishan ji ?
5. How was Guru Sahib tested by Raja Jai Singh and his wife ?
6. What did Guru Sahib tell the Sikhs who came to seek his blessings from far off places ?

6. THE END OF THE MORTAL LIFE

During Guru Harkrishan Sahib's stay in Delhi, cholera broke out. The sick sought his blessings, and asked the child Guru to pray for them. Guru Sahib had a small pool constructed. He sanctified it by touching the water with his holy feet, and instructed that the water should be mixed in the main water reservoir. He said that whoever would take a sip from it, would be cured. Thus thousands of people were cured of cholera.

Hearing about the supernatural powers of the child Guru, Aurangzeb again showed his desire to meet him and sent his son to talk to him and fix up a meeting. Guru Sahib had vowed not to meet Aurangzeb. Unfortunately, he had a severe attack of small pox and high fever. He was taken seriously ill, and knew that his end had come. He ordered the recitation of Hymns from Guru Granth Sahib, day and night.

The Sikhs were very worried about his successor. They wanted to know who would guide them after him. He asked for a coconut and a five



paise coin, and moved his hand round and round thrice in the air, and said 'Baba Bakala.' This indicated that the next Guru would be found in the village Bakala. Soon after uttering these words, the child Guru breathed his last, on 30th March 1664, at the age of eight years. His body was cremated on the banks of Yamuna. Gurdwara Bala Sahib was built at that place in his memory.

Guru Harkrishan ji's period of Guruship was only three years, but still left a mark in the history of our country. He is remembered for his wisdom and his compassion for the sick, inspite of his very young age.

How Much Do You Remember?

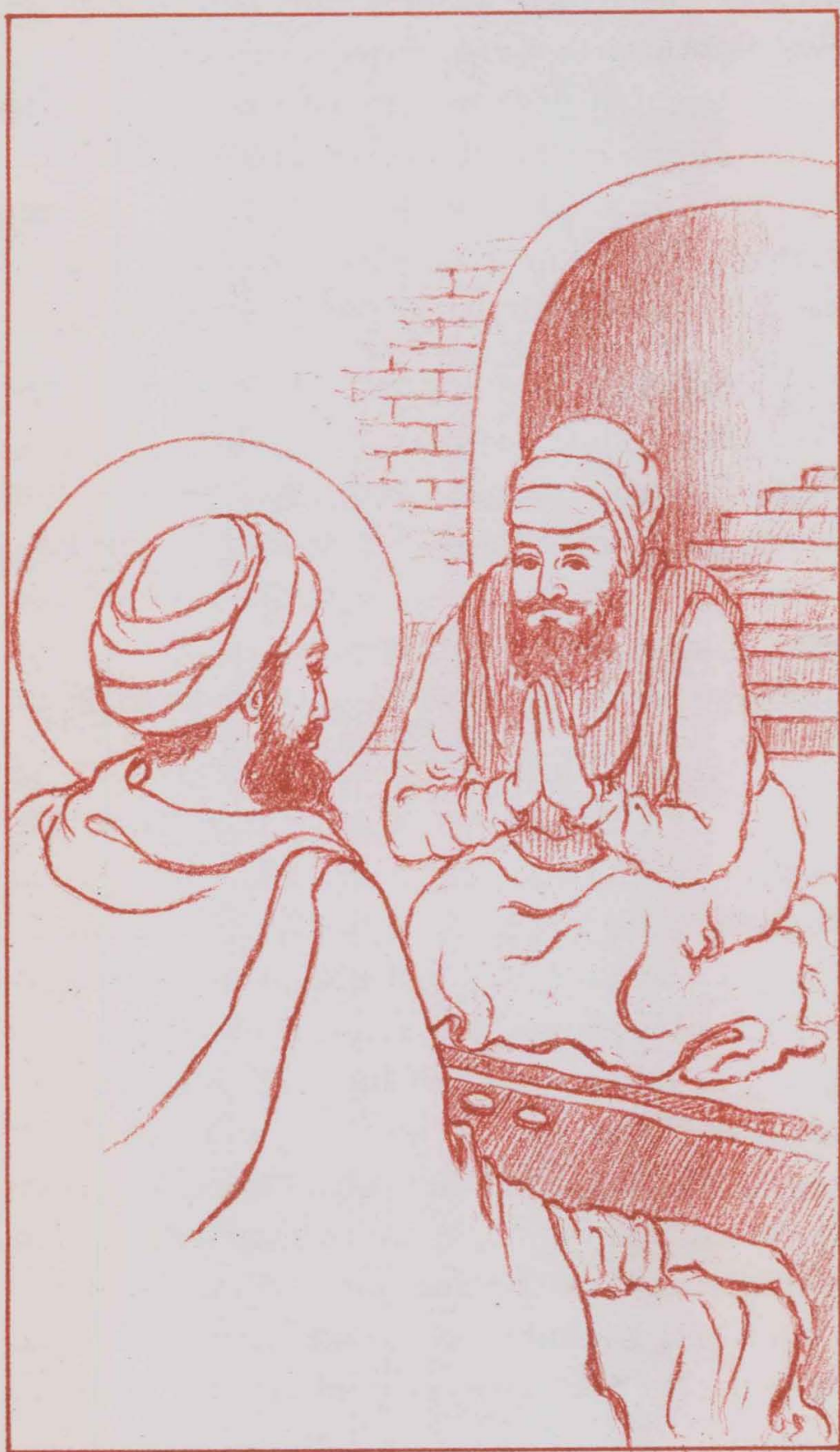
I. Fill in the blanks :

1. _____ broke out in Delhi during the stay of Guru Harkrishan ji.
2. Guru Sahib asked for a jug of water, and after praying, instructed that it should be mixed in the main _____.
3. Guru Sahib said that anyone who takes a sip of the water will be _____.
4. Hearing about the supernatural powers of the child Guru _____ again showed his desire to meet him.
5. Guru Sahib was taken _____ ill and knew that end was near.
6. The Sikhs were very worried about his _____.
7. Guru Sahib took a coconut and a five paise coin and moved his hand round and round _____.
8. 'Baba Bakala' meant that the next Guru would be found in the village _____.
9. Guru Harkrishan ji's period of Guruship was only _____ years.
10. He breathed his last at the age of _____.

7. SEARCH FOR THE THE NINTH GURU

After the announcement of the child Guru (Guru Harkrishan ji), indicating that his successor would be found in Bakala, many people connected with the families of the previous Gurus, set up themselves there as the next Guru. This led to a lot of confusion amongst the Sikhs. The Sikhs did not know whom to believe. Then an event took place which set aside the claims of all the false Gurus.

A ship, carrying a lot of cargo, from Gujarat, was caught in a storm on the high seas. The owner of the cargo, named Makhan Shah, prayed to Guru Nanak Dev ji for the safety of his life and goods. He promised to pay five hundred gold coins to the Guru, if he was saved. His prayers were answered and he reached the shore safely. He left for Bakala as soon as he landed, to fulfill his promise. On reaching Bakala, he found many pretenders, each claiming to be the successor of the eighth Guru. He thought of a plan to find out the true Guru. He went to different 'Gurus', and gave two gold coins to each of them. None of them knew that he had vowed to give five hundred coins. He then inquired from the



local people, if there was any other holy person. He was informed that there was a very holy person called Tega (Tegh Bahadur), who was the son of Guru Hargobind Sahib, but had never claimed to be the Guru. Makhan Shah was also told that Tegh Bahadur did not meet anyone, and spent most of his time praying and meditating on God's name.

Makhan Shah decided to meet Tegh Bahadur, and approached his mother. Tegh Bahadur thought about his request, and felt that if he didn't disclose his identity, the faith of Makhan Shah would be shaken. Moreover, the Sikhs also needed him to give them guidance, so he decided to meet Makhan Shah.

When Makhan Shah entered the room, he found Tegh Bahadur ji in deep meditation. He bowed and put two gold coins before him. When Tegh Bahadur ji opened his eyes and saw them, he told Makhan Shah that he had broken his promise and offered only two gold coins, while he vowed to give five hundred, when his ship was sinking. Makhan Shah fell at his feet and asked for forgiveness. He placed the five hundred coins before the Guru, and went up to the roof top and shouted that he had found the true Guru, "Guru Ladho Re." On hearing Makhan Shah's excited voice from the roof top, the Sikhs collected outside the house of

Tegh Bahadur ji, and were very happy and relieved that they had found the true Guru. Tegh Bahadur ji was installed on the 'Gur Gaddi' with great pomp and show.

How Much Do You Remember?

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What happened when Guru Harkrishan ji breathed his last, after announcing that his successor would be found in Bakala?
2. What happened to Makhan's ship on the high seas?
3. What did Makhan vow to do, if his life and cargo were saved?
4. What did Makhan find at Bakala?
5. How did Makhan discover the true Guru?
6. What did Makhan do, after discovering Guru Tegh Bahadur ji to be the true Guru?

II. Something to do:

Draw a picture of a ship in a sea storm and paint it.

8. GURU TEGH BAHADUR JI (1621-1675)

THE NINTH GURU

Guru Tegh Bahadur ji took up his duties as the ninth Guru in March 1665, and started preaching the teachings of the Sikh Gururs. Sikhs from far and near came to pay their respects and offerings to him. Dhir Mal, one of the self-styled Guru, became very jealous of him. He attacked Guru Sahib and wounded him. Dhir Mal took away Guru Sahib's property, and told everyone that he was the real Guru. No one believed him. The Sikhs were very upset and wanted to take revenge. But Guru Sahib remained calm and told them to forgive him. Soon after this incident, Guru Sahib left Bakala and moved to Kiratpur. He founded a township, and named it Anandpur Sahib.

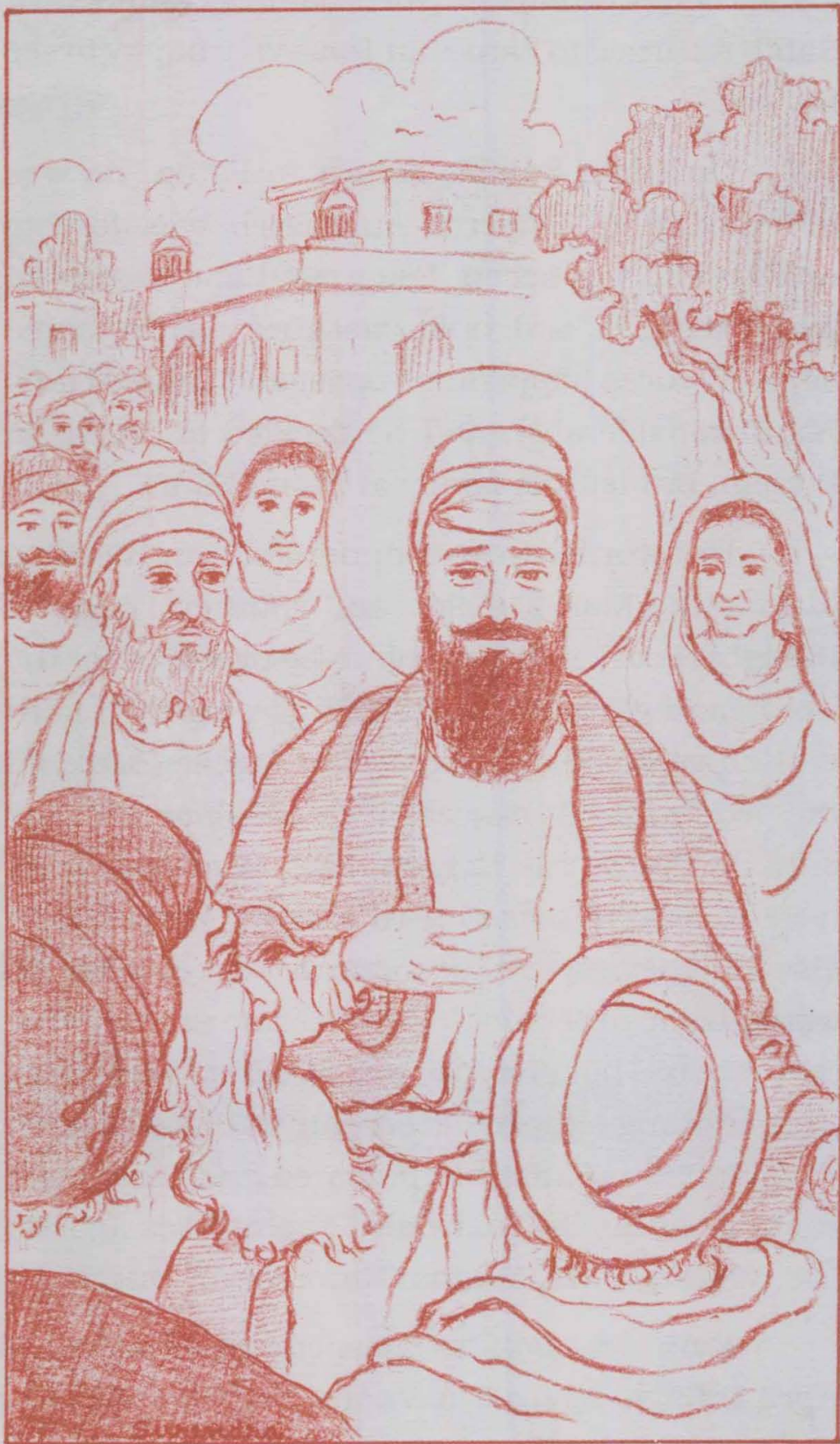
He decided to tour extensively to spread the teaching of Guru Nanak Devji. He visited important cities like Agra, Allahabad, Benaras, Gaya and Patna. Leaving his family at Patna, he went to Dacca (presently in Bangla Desh). There he received the good news that his wife, Mata Gujri, had given birth to a son on December 22nd, 1666. There was

joy and celebrations in Guru Sahib's camp. Guru Sahib returned to Patna, and was very happy to see his son.

On Guru Sahib's return to Patna, he was informed that Emperor Aurangzeb was forcing non-Muslims to accept Islam, and had destroyed many temples and built mosques on the same sites. All these happenings upset and pained Guru Sahib considerably, and he decided to return to Punjab, but left his family at Patna Sahib.

He returned to Anandpur Sahib, and decided to tour the Malwa region and southern parts of Punjab. He asked the people to be prepared for the worst, and get ready to die than give up their faith and 'dharma.' He went from place to place, and told the people that Aurangzeb wanted Islam to be the only religion in his Empire, and that they would have to fight to defend their religion. Guru Sahib also told the people, that sooner or later Aurangzeb would issue orders for his arrest and murder, but they should not give way to despair or frustration as everything happens according to His will. Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was prepared for the supreme sacrifice of his life to awaken the masses against the tyranny of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

Emperor Aurangzeb issued special orders in April 1669, to all his Governors and officers, not to



give employment to non-Muslims, unless they accepted Islam. His fanatic religious policy led to a reign of terror.

When Guru Sahib returned to Anandpur Sahib, after his tour of Malwa and southern Punjab, he was informed that the situation had become worse. Guru Sahib was told that Aurangzeb had ordered his men to convert the infidels (non-Muslims) to Islam, and if they refused to become Muslims, they were either killed or had to face starvation due to unemployment.

At the time of Aurangzeb, most of his subjects were Hindus, and his efforts to convert were directed towards them, but he did not spare the Sikhs too. In most of the cities and towns, Guru Sahib had his agents who were known as 'masands'. The 'masands' used to preach the faith and collect the offerings from the Sikhs to be sent to Guru Sahib. Aurangzeb ordered Guru Sahib's 'masands' to be driven out of cities and towns.

All these measures of Aurangzeb, against the non-Muslims, led to extreme pain and suffering amongst his subjects. There was tremendous unrest, dissatisfaction and grief all around. A sense of doom prevailed in the whole of the Mughal Empire.

How Much Do You Remember?

I. Answer the following questions :

1. Who was Dhir Mal and why was he jealous of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib ?
2. What did Dhir Mal do, which extremely upset the Sikhs?
3. What was told to Guru Sahib on his return to Patna after his tour of Bengal and Assam ?
4. What did he tell the people when he toured Malwa region and southern parts of Punjab ?
5. What were the orders issued by Aurangzeb to all his Governors in April 1669 ?
6. Describe the fanatical religious policy of Aurangzeb at the time of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib.

II. Fill in the blanks :

1. Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib took up the duties as the ninth Guru in _____.
2. He founded a township and named it _____.
3. He visited important places like _____.
4. While at Dacca, he received the good news that his wife had given birth to a son on December _____.
5. Guru Sahib's agents in different towns, were known as _____.

9. THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

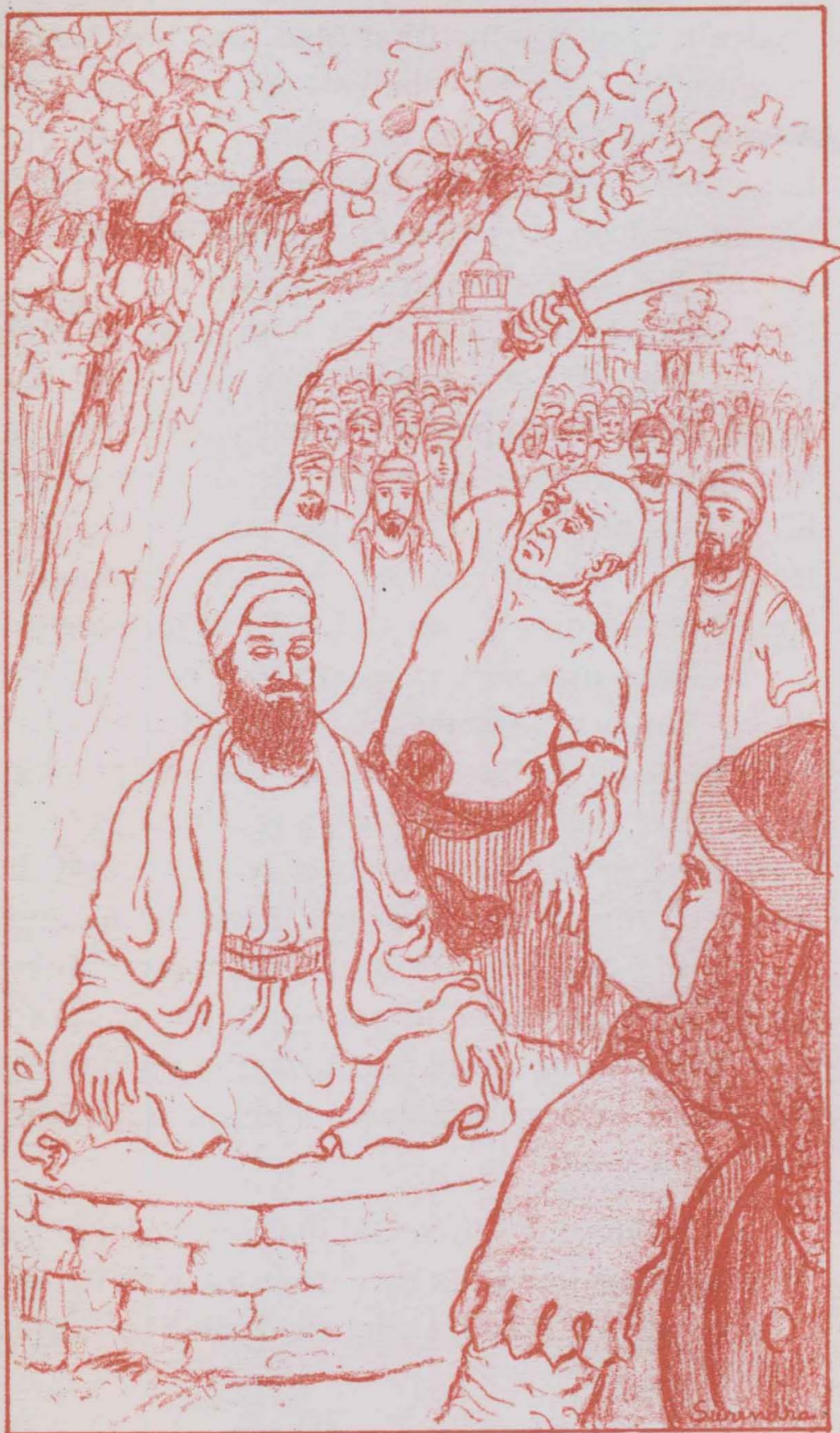
To start with, Emperor Aurangzeb decided to convert Kashmiri Pandits to Islam. Kashmiri Brahmins neither wanted to lose their lives, nor give up their faith. Some of them approached Guru Tegh Bahadur ji at Anandpur Sahib for guidance and help. Guru Tegh Bahadur ji was sad and unhappy after hearing the tales of terror let loose by Emperor Aurangzeb's Governors in Kashmir. Guru Sahib realized that people were facing a great crisis. Their honour and freedom to worship, were being challenged. This crisis touched the lives of non-muslims who were being asked to choose between death or Islam. He deeply felt the injustice of the situation and yet there seemed to be no solution.

Guru Sahib was deep in thought, when his nine year old son Gobind Rai enquired about the reason for his sadness. Guru Sahib told him about the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits, and said that some noble soul would have to lay down his life to save the 'dharma' and honour of the Pandits. Gobind Rai immediately asked his father,

“who could be better than you for the supreme sacrifice?” Guru Sahib was happy to hear such words of courage from his young son. He immediately made up his mind, and instructed the Kashmiri Pandits to tell Emperor Aurangzeb, that if he could convert their Guru to Islam, they would all agree to become Muslims. This assurance made them heave a sigh of relief. They hoped that Guru Sahib would be able to prevail upon Aurangzeb to stop forcible conversions.

When Aurangzeb received the message through his Governor, he at once issued orders to arrest and imprison Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, and to present him in his ‘darbar’ at Delhi. In the meantime Guru Sahib, along with his companions had begun his journey towards Delhi. He was arrested at the village of Malikpur Rangharan, near Ropar, by Kotwal Noor Mohammed Khan Mirza, on July 12th, 1675. The Kotwal sent Guru Sahib and his companions to Sarhind, where they were fettered, chained and put in prison. Guru Sahib was kept at Sarhind for three and a half months, and then he was sent to Delhi, shut in an iron cage.

At Delhi, Guru Tegh Bahadur ji was kept in prison. The Subedar of Delhi and the royal Qazi tried their best to persuade him to accept Islam, but Guru Sahib refused to give up his faith.



Before his eyes, his three companions were put to death very cruelly. Bhai Mati Das was bound between two wooden planks and cut down with a saw. Bhai Dayal Das was boiled to death in a large vessel. Bhai Satti Das was wrapped up in cotton and oil was poured on him and was lit up. All the three disciples died with the name of God on their lips, and their eyes fixed on their Guru. Emperor Aurangzeb then proposed that either Guru Sahib perform a miracle to prove to him that he was a saint, or face death. Guru Sahib knew that his time to leave the world had come. He called for a five paise coin and a coconut, concentrated on his son Gobind Rai and bowed. He declared that his son would be the next Guru. When Emperor Aurangzeb was told that Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib had refused to accept Islam or perform any miracle, he was furious. He sent a messenger to Guru Sahib to tell him that, he had seen the cruel end of his three companions and could foresee his own end. Guru Sahib asked the messenger to convey to the Emperor that didn't he understand how brave would be the Guru, whose followers had died without uttering a word !

On hearing Guru Sahib's reply, Emperor Aurangzeb ordered his execution. He was led out of his cage in Chandni Chowk, Delhi, by Saiyed

Adam Shah who had been ordered to execute Guru Sahib. Guru Sahib went to a well, bathed, recited the Japji Sahib and gave his sword to Adam Shah and asked him to strike him when he bowed his head to God. Adam Shah did what he was told. At this site now stands the Gurdwara Sisganj.

Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was beheaded in the presence of a large crowd, under a tree. (The trunk of the tree is still preserved in Gurdwara Sisganj). The crowd surged forward to have a closer look at their martyred Guru. In the confusion Bhai Jaita rushed out with Guru Sahib's head and went straight to Anandpur Sahib. The young Guru Gobind Singh ji performed the last rites of his father. At the place of cremation stands Gurdwara Sisganj Anandpur Sahib.

After the execution, there was storm and lightening. The clouds darkened the sky. Under the cover of darkness, a brave Sikh, named Lakhi Shah, retrieved the body of Guru Sahib in his cart. He and his sons put the body on the firewood inside their hut, and set fire to their house. Gurdwara Rakab Ganj stands on the site.

Thus on November 11, Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was martyred by the orders of Emperor Aurangzeb.

How Much Do You Remember?

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Who approached Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib for guidance and help at Anandpur Sahib?
2. What did Guru Sahib tell his son Gobind Rai, when he asked him the reason for his sadness?
3. What did Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib tell the Kashmiri Pandits?
4. What were Aurangzeb's orders to his officers after he received Guru Sahib's message?
5. What did the Subedar and the Qazi ask Guru Sahib to do?
6. What punishment was given to the three companions of Guru Sahib?
7. What was Aurangzeb's proposal to Guru Sahib after torturing and killing his three companions?
8. What did Guru Sahib tell Aurangzeb's messenger to convey to him?
9. What were the final orders of Aurangzeb?
10. What happened after the execution?

II. Fill in the blanks:

1. Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was arrested at _____.
2. He was arrested by Kotwal _____.
3. After the arrest, Guru Sahib and his companions were taken to _____.
4. Guru Sahib was kept at _____ for _____ and a half months.
5. At Delhi, Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was kept in _____ and imprisoned in an _____.
6. All the three disciples of Guru Sahib died with the name of _____ on their lips and their eyes fixed on their _____.

10. CONTRIBUTIONS OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR JI

Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was an embodiment of sheer courage and bravery. He was prepared for the supreme sacrifice of his life to uphold the right of faith or religion. His life serves as an example to humanity, not to be afraid of sacrificing for the right causes. He had the courage and conviction to fight the cruel Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, and show to him that he could not be subdued by brutal force.

It should not be forgotten, that Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib did not commit any crime, for which he could have been punished. He did not wage a war against the Mughals or raise a rebellion against them. The history of the world is full of martyrs, but they died either for the defence of their religion or their country. But Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib died not for Sikhism, but for the defence of the oppressed, and the human right to worship god in any form. Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib didn't believe in the 'tilak' or the sacred thread, nor in the worship of gods and goddesses, but he sacrificed his life for the right of every man to worship the religion of his choice.



Guru Gobind Singh ji mentioned that his father died for the holy men. This obviously refers to the Kashmiri Pandits and their protest against forcible conversions. Thus he condemned tyranny, oppression and the use of force in matters of religion. Hence Guru Sahib suffered martyrdom for the sake of 'dharma,' because he had come to Delhi determined to sacrifice himself, rather than submit to the demands of Emperor Aurangzeb. He refused to perform any miracle to prove that he was a saint or to please the Mughal Emperor, so that he might forgive him.

The martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji was unique in the history of India and world. It highlighted injustice, fanaticism and made the people of India hate Aurangzeb and his regime as never before. It also culminated in the creation of Khalsa, and the establishment of a distinct Sikh community by his son, Guru Gobind Singh ji. Besides, being a saint and a soldier, Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was a great poet. His poetical compositions were added to Guru Granth Sahib by his son Guru Gobind Singh ji. He wrote nearly fifty nine 'shabads' and the famous 'shlokas', added at the end of Guru Granth sahib, called Nawan Mohila. His poetry signifies the depth of his feelings and has overtones of detachment and

sorrow. He felt deeply sad when he witnessed the cruelty of man to his fellow beings. He gave vent to his feelings in the form of poetry.

Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib occupied the 'Gur Gaddi' for eleven years. During his period of Guruship, the Sikh community passed through very difficult times. Actually, the whole atmosphere was charged with violence, unrest and disenchantment.

How Much Do You Remember?

I. Fill in the blanks:

1. Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was an embodiment of _____
2. He had the courage and conviction to fight the cruel Mughal _____
3. He wrote _____ 'shabads' besides the famous 'shlokas' of _____
4. He occupied the 'Gur Gaddi' for _____ years.
5. The whole atmosphere in the country was charged with _____, _____ and _____

II. Something to do:

Learn the shlokas of 'Nawan Mohila' written by Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib and ask your music teacher to help you to sing them.

11. SHABADS WRITTEN BY GURU TEGH BAHADUR SAHIB

ਗਉੜੀ ਮਹਲਾ ੯ ॥

ਸਾਧੋ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਕੇ ਗੁਨ ਗਾਵਉ ॥
ਮਾਨਸ ਜਨਮੁ ਅਮੋਲਕੁ ਪਾਇਉ ॥
ਬਿਰਥਾ ਕਾਹਿ ਗਵਾਵਉ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ॥
ਪਤਿਤ ਪੁਨੀਤ ਦੀਨ ਬੰਧੁ ਹਰਿ ਸਰਨਿ ਤਾਹਿ ਤੁਮ ਆਵਉ ॥
ਗਜ ਕੋ ਤ੍ਰਾਸੁ ਮਿਟਿਓ ਜਿਹ ਸਿਮਰਤ ਤੁਮ ਕਾਹੇ ਬਿਸਰਾਵਉ ॥੧॥
ਤਜਿ ਅਭਿਮਾਨੁ ਮੋਹੁ ਮਾਇਆ ਫੁਨਿ ਭਜਨ ਰਾਮ ਚਿਤੁ ਲਾਵਉ ॥
ਨਾਨਕੁ ਕਹਤੁ ਮੁਕਤਿ ਪੰਥੁ ਇਹੁ ਗੁਰਮੁਖਿ ਹੋਇ ਤੁਮ ਪਾਵਉ ॥੨॥੫॥

O good people, sing God's praises:

You have obtained priceless human life;

Why waste it in vain?

*Take refuge in the abode of God who is the
purifier of sinners and the friend of the poor.*

*The way the elephant's fear was destroyed by
remembering the God, why are you forgetting
'Him'.*

*Lay aside pride, worldly attachment and illusion,
and then apply your mind to God and worship
'Him'.*

Nanak says, this is the way to salvation;

*become a follower of the Guru and you reach
'Him'.*

ਗਉੜੀ ਮਹਲਾ ਦੁ ॥

ਜੇ ਨਰੁ ਦੁਖ ਮਹਿ ਦੁਖੁ ਨਹੀ ਮਾਨੈ ॥

ਸੁਖ ਸਨੇਹੁ ਅਰੁ ਭੈ ਨਹੀ ਜਾ ਕੇ ਕੰਚਨ ਮਾਟੀ ਮਾਨੈ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ॥

ਨਹ ਨਿੰਦਾ ਨਹ ਉਸਤਤਿ ਜਾ ਕੇ ਲੋਭੁ ਮੇਹੁ ਅਭਿਮਾਨਾ ॥

ਹਰਖੁ ਸੁਗ ਤੇ ਰਹੈ ਨਿਆਰਉ ਨਾਹਿ ਮਾਨੁ ਅਪਮਾਨਾ ॥੧॥

ਆਸਾ ਮਨਸਾ ਸਗਲ ਤਿਆਗੇ ਜਗ ਤੇ ਰਹੈ ਨਿਰਾਸਾ ॥

ਕਾਮੁ ਕ੍ਰੋਧੁ ਜਿਹ ਪਰਸੈ ਨਾਹਨਿ ਤਿਹ ਘਟਿ ਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਨਿਵਾਸਾ ॥੨॥

ਗੁਰ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਜਿਹ ਨਰ ਕਉ ਕੀਨੀ ਤਿਹ ਇਹ ਜੁਗਤਿ ਪਛਾਨੀ ॥

ਨਾਨਕ ਲੀਨ ਭਇਓ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿਉ ਜਿਉ ਪਾਨੀ ਸੰਗਿ ਪਾਨੀ ॥੩॥

*He who suffers not even in adversity, (accepts it
as Bhana) And is free from affection or fear in
prosperity, And who regards gold as a lump of
earth,*

And who treats praise or blame alike,

*And who is free from avarice attachment or pride,
who is unaffected by joy or sorrow, by honour or
dishonour*

*Who has renounced all hopes and desires, and
expects nothing from world;*

*Whom lust or anger touch not—in such a person's
heart God dwells.*

*He to whom the Guru has shown the grace
recognizes the way.*

*And such a person, O Nanak, shall merge with
God as water mixes with water*

ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

ਧਨਾਸਰੀ ਮਹਲਾ ੯ ॥ ਕਾਹੇ ਰੇ ਬਨਿ ਖੋਜਨਿ ਜਾਈ ॥
ਸਰਬਨਿਵਾਸੀ ਸਦਾ ਅਲੇਖਾ ਤੋਹੀ ਸੰਗਿ ਸਮਾਈ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥
ਪੁਹਪ ਮਧਿ ਜਿਉ ਬਾਸੁ ਬਸਤ ਹੈ ਮੁਕਰ ਮਾਹਿ ਜੈਸੇ ਛਾਈ ॥
ਤੈਸੇ ਹੀ ਹਰਿ ਬਸੈ ਨਿਰੰਤਰਿ ਘਟ ਹੀ ਖੋਜਹੁ ਭਾਈ ॥੧॥ ਬਾਹਰਿ
ਭੀਤਰਿ ਏਕੇ ਜਾਨਹੁ ਇਹੁ ਗੁਰਿ ਗਿਆਨੁ ਬਤਾਈ ॥ ਜਨ ਨਾਨਕ
ਬਿਨੁ ਆਪਾ ਚੀਨੈ ਮਿਟੇ ਨ ਭ੍ਰਮ ਕੀ ਕਾਈ ॥੨॥੧॥

Why go to the forest in search of God?

*God dwells everywhere and is present in you.
Just like the scent in flowers and reflection in
the mirror; God dwells in your heart;*

Search for Him there , O brother.

*Whether you are out in the world or in the home,
realize that there is one God; this knowledge the
Guru has given you.*

*Nanak says, without knowing your self, the scum
of doubt shall not be removed.*

- *Learn and recite the above verses.*